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REPORTS OF STATE BOARDS OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS.

Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the New York State Board of Charities. Transmitted to the legislature Feb. 5, 1891. Pp. 74.

This is one of the best arranged state reports of charities. The statistical tables show the value of property held by the various charitable, correctional, and reformatory institutions of the state; the budget for 1890; and the number of persons in the several institutions. The population of these beneficiaries is thus classified:—

Classes of Inmates.	October 1, 1890.	October 1, 1889.
Insane.....	16,022	15,538
Idiotic and feeble-minded.....	1,387	1,330
Epileptic.....	482	584
Blind.....	694	657
Deaf.....	1,329	1,328
Dependent children.....	23,289	20,949
Juvenile offenders.....	4,610	4,765
Reformatory prisoners.....	1,102	944
Disabled soldiers and sailors..	1,023	973
Hospital patients.....	4,118	3,782
Aged and friendless persons..	6,946	7,007
Ordinary poor-house inmates..	9,893	9,980
Total.....	70,895	67,781

The number of insane in the care of the various asylums, including poor-houses and private asylums, has steadily increased:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1880	4,211	5,326	9,537
1885	5,763	6,944	12,707
1890	7,505	8,517	16,022

The value of the property held amounted to \$64,432,000 Oct. 1, 1890, and the total expenditure for the year to \$16,349,000. This is nearly double the sum expended in 1880.

Twenty-second Annual Report of the Board of State Charities and Corrections of Rhode Island, 1890. Pp. 142.

There is no summarized table in this report showing the population of charitable and correctional institutions,—a defect which might easily be remedied to great advantage for the public. From the detailed reports it would appear that the number of inmates of the work-house

and House of Correction increased slightly during the year. In analyzing the causes of commitment the report observes that "how much of the variation from year to year in the numbers of certain classes of offenders committed is due the greater or less prevalence of offences, and how much to varying degrees of activity in arresting the offenders, cannot be known." The number of insane in the state asylum is reported as follows:—

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Jan. 1, 1885	165	149	314
" 1890	231	262	493
" 1891	238	277	515

Here again great care is necessary in drawing deductions from these statistics since there has been a change in the method of commitment. The number of inmates in the State Almshouse has decreased from 255 to 236; and in the Prison from 133 to 105. There was also a smaller number of commitments in the Industrial Schools.

Twelfth Annual Report of the State Board of Lunacy and Charity of Massachusetts. January, 1891. Pp. 205, lxxxiv.

This includes reports, with statistics, of the superintendent of indoor poor, of out-door poor, and the inspector of institutions.

The following table shows the change in the insane population since 1875.

	Increase of Total Population. Per cent in 5 Years.	Known Insane.			
		According to Census.		Under State Supervision.	
		Numbers.	Increase. Per cent in 5 Years.	Numbers.	Increase. Per cent in 5 Years.
1875	13.29	3,637	36.62	2,722	21.11
1880	7.69	5,127	40.96	3,724	36.81
1885	8.92	5,263	2.65	4,543	21.99
1890	15.28	5,652	24.41

The leading assigned causes for insanity remained the same. Intemperance and hereditary predisposition are the leading causes. In the 218 almshouses of the state there were 4582 inmates April 1, 1890. The report shows that the average number of the poor throughout the state receiving their full support was 8629, and partial support 15,337, making a total of 22,125. The net cost was \$1,805,641. There has been a continuous decrease in the number since 1885. There are interesting summary tables showing the comparative and mean age, occupations, and civil condition of the insane.

Eleventh Biennial Report of the Board of State Commissioners of Public Charities of Illinois, 1888-1890. F. H. Wines, Secretary, Springfield. 1890. Pp. 322.

There are eleven state charitable institutions of which detailed reports are made. There are four hospitals for the insane, an institution for the education of the deaf and dumb, one for the blind, an asylum for feeble-minded children, a sailors' and soldiers' home, a soldiers' orphans' home, an eye and ear infirmary, and a reform school. The following table exhibits the population, expenses, income, and cost for 1875 to 1890:—

	Gross Ordinary Expenses.	Income not from State.	Cost to State.	Average Number.	Per Capita Cost. Cents omitted.	
					Gross.	Net.
1875	\$373,998	\$52,026	\$321,972	1,795	\$250	\$215
1876	488,791	65,019	424,771	2,064	237	205
1877	482,071	51,940	430,130	2,074	231	207
1878	557,558	44,450	513,107	2,482	224	206
1879	551,214	43,498	507,715	2,707	202	187
1880	617,075	53,877	563,198	2,926	210	192
1881	655,861	58,694	597,166	3,135	209	190
1882	687,155	66,169	620,986	3,209	214	193
1883	714,421	62,552	651,869	3,471	205	187
1884	741,040	68,473	672,567	3,702	200	181
1885	864,329	65,137	799,191	4,444	193	179
1886	960,705	93,010	867,695	5,093	188	170
1887	1,014,018	78,739	935,279	5,230	180	165
1888	808,550	68,025	740,524	5,930	181	166
1889	1,081,773	76,156	1,005,617	6,024	179	166
1890	1,081,651	85,050	996,601	6,196	174	160
Total...	\$11,680,218	\$1,031,822	\$10,648,396	3,786	\$197	\$180

Fourth Biennial Report of the State Board of Supervision of Wisconsin Charitable, Reformatory, and Penal Institutions for the two years ending Sept. 30, 1890. Madison. 1891. Pp. 239.

The average population cared for in the two insane hospitals, schools for the deaf and blind, industrial school, prison, and state public school in 1890 were 2576. A comparison of the periods 1874-81 and 1882-90 shows that there has been no great increase except in the prison.

	1874-81.	1882-90.
Insane hospital,	864	1110
School for deaf,	146	194
“ “ blind,	66	70
“ “ boys,	359	334
State prison,	282	430